

Remarks

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 1-40 are rejected. Claims 1, 4-7, 15, 19-21, 24-27, 35-37, and 39-40 are amended herein. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-40.

Claims 1-8, 15-28, and 35-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent 5,610,972 (Emery et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 5,668,862 (Bannister et al.).

Claims 1, 15, 21, and 35 require, in a portable user device, receiving a user registration input, initiating a telephone call in the communication system by automatically transferring audible call tones from the portable user device to a telephone device in response to the user registration input, and transferring audible user identification tones over the telephone call. Claims 1, 15, 21, and 35 further require, in a control system, answering the telephone call, receiving the audible user identification tones, receiving a location indicator, processing the audible user identification tones and the location indicator to generate a route instruction, and transferring the route instruction to the communication system, wherein the route instruction routes telephone calls for the user to a communication device associated with the location indicator.

Therefore, in operation, the user holds the portable user device to the handset of a telephone and activates the device. The device automatically generates audible call tones and audible user identification tones into the handset. These tones, along with the telephone number of the telephone, are used to route calls to the telephone that are intended for the user. Advantageously, the invention of any of the embodiments may be implemented to allow a mobile user to automatically receive communications despite moving around within a communication system. Another advantage is that the user does not have to manually register by dialing a number and entering digits.

Emery does not teach or suggest, in a portable user device, initiating a telephone call in the communication system by automatically transferring audible call tones from the portable user device to a telephone device in response to the user registration input. Emery does not teach or suggest, in a portable user device, transferring audible user identification tones over the telephone call. Emery does not teach or suggest, in a control

system, receiving the audible user identification tones, receiving a location indicator, or processing the audible user identification tones and the location indicator to generate a route instruction. As discussed in the previous Response, Emery merely discloses a home base station registration that comprises both a manual registration process and an automatic registration process. In the manual registration process, the user of a PCS handset dials a prearranged telephone number, hears an announcement, and in response enters digits (see col. 16, lines 25-30). This is the manual registration mechanism that the invention avoids. In the automatic registration process of Emery, the automatic registration requires a PCS base station, and the base station dials an Integrated Service Control Point (ISCP), receives an announcement from the ISCP, and provides digits to the ISCP (see col. 17, lines 1-22).

Bannister does not teach or suggest, in a portable user device, initiating a telephone call in the communication system by automatically transferring audible call tones from the portable user device to a telephone device in response to the user registration input. Bannister does not teach or suggest, in a portable user device, transferring audible user identification tones over the telephone call. Bannister does not teach or suggest, in a control system, receiving the audible user identification tones, receiving a location indicator, or processing the audible user identification tones and the location indicator to generate a route instruction. Instead, Bannister discloses a call management service that performs call screening and fixed routing. The call management service of Bannister can be used by a subscriber to predefine the routing of various incoming calls to various destination telephone numbers (see col. 4, line 64 to col. 5, line 14). In Bannister, the service node 10 accesses a database that correlates a type of incoming call (*i.e.*, a private telephone number, a business telephone number, etc.) to an appropriate destination telephone device of the subscriber (see FIG. 2A, databases 207 and 208). Consequently, the subscriber can configure the database entries to provide routing service based on the incoming call and the telephone number dialed for the incoming call.

The Office Action asserts that Bannister receives audible user identification tones and a location indicator and processes them to generate a route instruction. The Office Action cites col. 12, lines 31-65 of Bannister in support of this proposition. This is

incorrect. The cited text merely describes how the subscriber/call recipient can enter telephone keycodes to perform call screening. The keycode does not identify the caller or subscriber. The keycode does not signal the location of the caller or subscriber. The keycode does not route the telephone call to a telephone device of the subscriber. Instead, the telephone call is already connected to the telephone of the subscriber (see col. 12, lines 37-39), and the call screening keycode therefore connects the call to a voice mail device, in addition to the telephone of the subscriber (see col. 12, lines 45-54).

Neither Emery nor Bannister teach or suggest such a combination. There is no motivation in either reference to make the proposed combination. Moreover, the proposed combination would not achieve the present invention.

Independent claims 1, 15, 21, and 35 therefore include features that are neither taught nor suggested by Emery. Claims 2-8 16-20, 22-28 and 36-40 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1, 15, 21, and 35.

Claims 9-14 and 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Emery in view of Bannister and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,421,536 (Uranaka et al.). Claims 9-14 and 29-34 depend from independent claims 1 and 21 and therefore are patentable for the reasons previously discussed.

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-40.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

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